

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawing includes changes to Fig. 1. This sheet, which includes Figs. 1, 2, 3A, and 3B, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 1, 2, 3A, and 3B. In Fig. 1, numeral 2 has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS

The objection to the drawings has been overcome by the enclosed replacement drawing sheet. The numeral 2 has been placed on Fig. 1.

Claim 1 has been amended to use a better preposition for locating the “clear-paint film” relative to the “under clear coat”. It has also been amended to set forth that the under clear coat is transparent or translucent. Support for this amendment is provided at page 3, lines 24-29; page 9, lines 10-16; and page 14, line 4 to page 15, line 16.

The examiner has rejected claims 1-3 and 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Panush et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,615,940. The examiner states: “The first coat is primer color coat (abstract) which is herein relied upon to read on the claimed ‘under clear coat.’” Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The primer base coat of Panush et al. ‘940 is not a clear coat. It essentially has a color value within the range N-4 to N-8 on the Munsell color chart as explained at column 5, line 65 – column 6, line 3. The Munsell values range in equal steps between black (N-0) and white (N-10). The value N-7 is gray. The primer base coat of the Panush et al. ‘940 patent includes additions of titanium dioxide and lamp black to adjust the degree of darkness of the under coat. It is not, therefore, a transparent or translucent clear coat. As explained at page 9, lines 10-16 of the Applicants’ specification, a “translucent pigment 8 may be dispersed in the under clear coat...” This language does not contemplate additions that would not be translucent and would produce N values between 4 and 8. Claims 1-3 and 8-9 are, therefore, not fully met by Panush et al. ‘940.

The examiner has rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Panush U.S. Patent No. 4,598,015. The examiner states: “The base coat is

pigmented (col. 2, lines 43+) and is herein understood to read on the claimed 'under clear coat.'" Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The pigmented base coat is not transparent or translucent as required by claims 1-3. The pigmented base coat is not described as having "translucent pigments". Example 1 describes a "super jet black base coat paint" (column 8, lines 6-7). Example 2 describes "a pure white base coat". Claims 1-3 are, therefore, not fully met by Panush '015.

The examiner has rejected claims 4 and 5 over Panush '015 in view of JP 62057676. The examiner states that JP '676 suggests adding a matting agent to the top coat. Reconsideration is requested.

JP '676 does not overcome the deficiency of Panush '015 in that it does not suggest providing a transparent or translucent under clear coat. JP '676 discloses the addition of 1 to 25% by weight coloring pigment in the base coat. This is consistent with the super jet black or pure white base coats taught by Panush '015. It does not suggest modifying Panush '015 to provide a transparent or translucent under clear coat.

It is a feature of the Applicants' claimed coating that the metallic luster with interference color is produced only by a clear or translucent paint film on the metal sheet without blocking the metallic external appearance of the metal sheet. The art of record does not suggest the Applicants' claimed coating, but leads away from the Applicants' claimed coating.

Claim 1 being nonobvious in view of the prior art, it follows that dependent claims 2-9 are also nonobvious.

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Amendment dated June 29, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 14, 2004
Attorney Docket No. 2204-031174

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is urged this case is now
in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

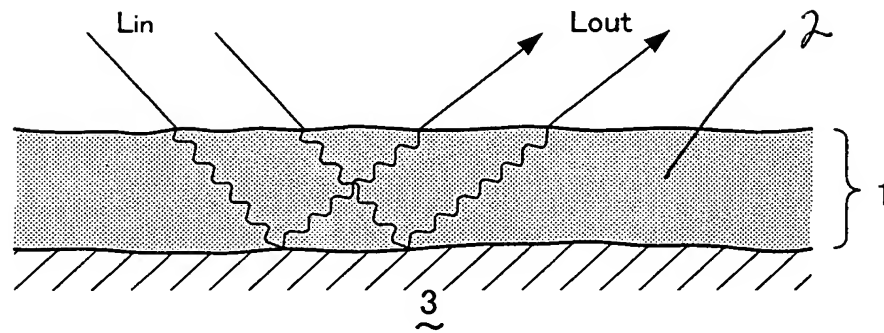
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FIG.1



(prior art)

FIG.2

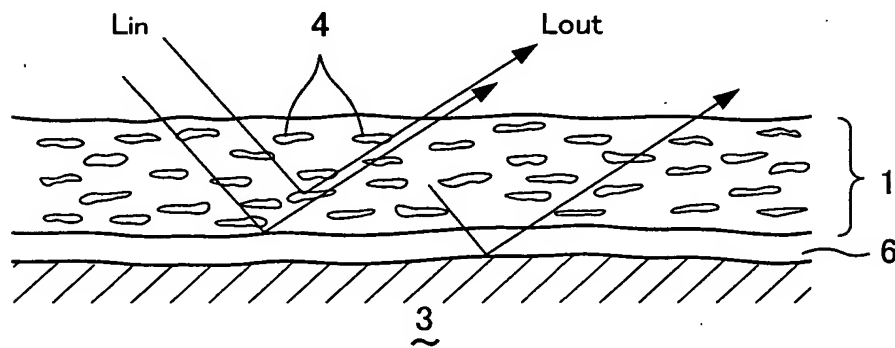


FIG.3A

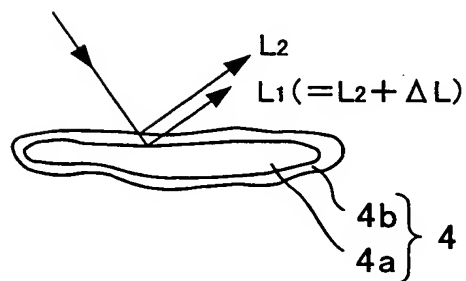


FIG.3B

